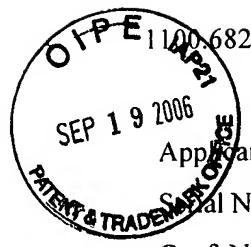


JFW

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Kuroda et al.
 Serial No.: 10/632,293
 Conf. No.: 5077
 Filed: 8/1/2003
 For: PREFORMAT METHOD FOR MAGNETIC RECORDING MEDIUM, MAGNETIC RECORDING MEDIUM, AND MAGNETIC RECORDING AND REPRODUCING APPARATUS
 Art Unit: 2651
 Examiner: Mercedes, Dismery E.

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as FIRST-CLASS mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this date.

Sept. 15, 2006 A. B. R.
 Date Registration No. 43,874
 Attorney for Applicant(s)

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop Amendment
 Commissioner for Patents
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This IDS is submitted under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c), after the C.F.R. §1.97(b) time period, but before the mail date of a Final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance (whichever occurs first), with either:

- (a) a statement under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e); or
- (b) the \$180.00 fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p).

Applicant(s) submit herewith Form PTO-1449 (Information Disclosure Citation) together with copies of foreign patents, publications or other information of which applicant(s) are aware, which applicant(s) believe may be material to the examination of this application and for which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.56. Applicant(s) respectfully submit that the citation of any reference on Form PTO-1449 does not constitute an admission that the reference qualifies as prior art.

It is requested that the information disclosed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be made of record in this application.

Statement Under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e):

The enclosed references were cited in a Communication issued by the Japanese Patent Office (copy enclosed). Applicant(s) hereby certify that each item of information cited on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three (3) months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

Applicant(s) hereby certify that no item of information cited on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing below after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information cited on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

Enclosed is a check for \$180.00 to cover the fee as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required to this application under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16-1.17, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 07-2069. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

300 South Wacker Drive-Suite 2500
 Chicago, Illinois 60606
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 Facsimile: (312) 360-9315
 Customer Number 24978

Respectfully submitted,

GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.

By: A. B. R.
 Arik B. Ranson, Registration No. 43,874



Sheet 1 of 1

Form PTO-1449 U.S. Department of Commerce (Rev. 8-88) Patent and Trademark Office			Attorney Docket No.: 1100.68251	Serial No.: 10/632,293			
			Applicant: Kuroda et al.				
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION (Use several sheets if necessary)			Filing Date: 08/01/2003	Group: 2627			
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initial*		Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date If Appropriate
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation
		JP 62523316	May 31, 1996	Japan			Yes
							No
							Abs.
OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)							
Examiner			Date Considered				
*Examiner:		Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.					